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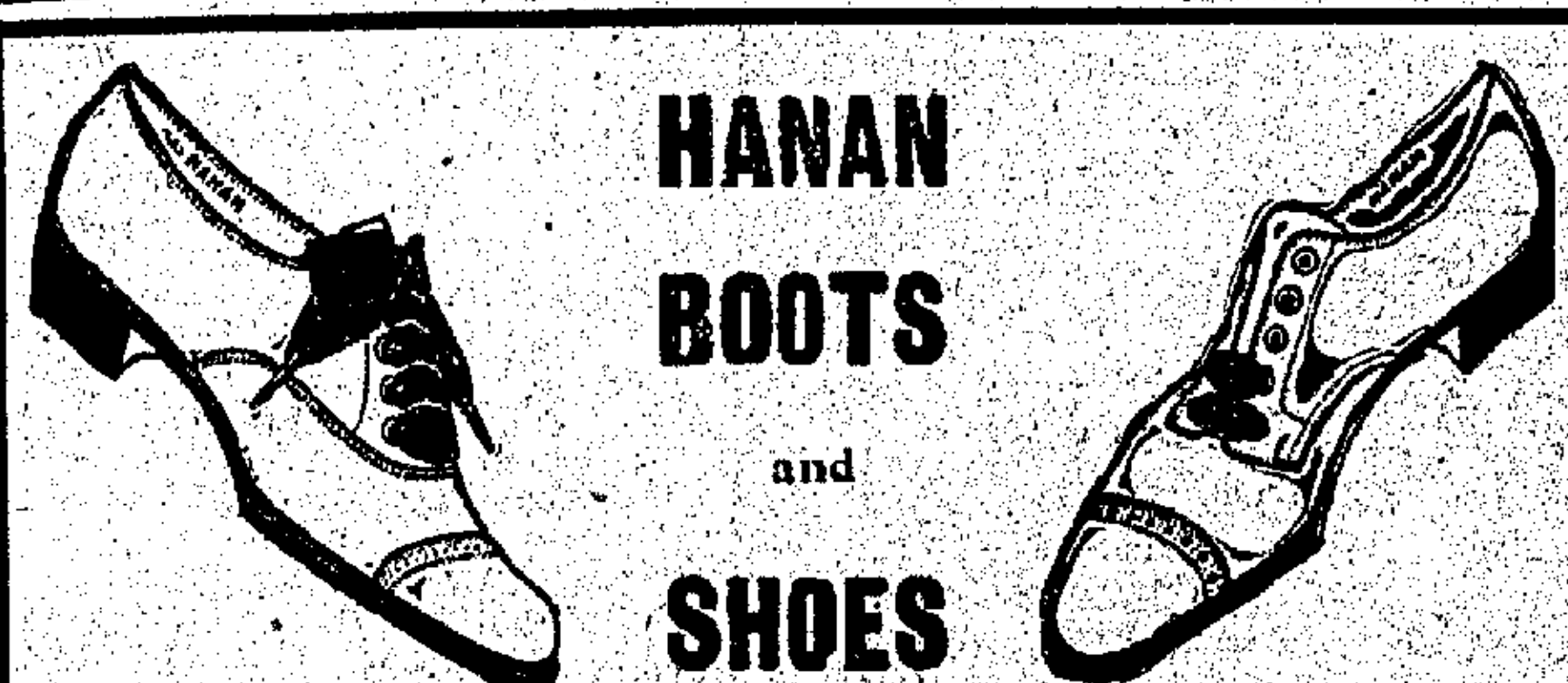


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[1388]

ALSACE-LORRAINE.

MORE THAN A QUESTION OF POLITICS
THE REAL PROBLEM.

Alsace-Lorraine is more than a question of politics and sentiment, though it is that first of all. It is also a many-sided problem of international and competitive industry. Here I can do little more than summarise the issues in broad outline. It is of the first importance that they should be understood by the British people, as well as in Whitehall (writes Mr. Sydney Brooks in the *Daily Chronicle*).

When Moltke in 1871 insisted upon, and Bismarck against his better judgment assented to, the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine, the main thought in their minds was that of securing a strategic frontier. They secured, though they did not know it at the time, something far more valuable than that, something that has proved the basis on which Germany has built up her towering fabric of prosperity and power, something without which Germany could not have begun this war, or could not have waged it for six months.

They secured the largest deposit of iron ore in Europe, and the second largest in the world. The soil of the lost provinces has made Germany's fortune. She has derived from it her metallurgical ascendancy, the motive power for her industries, her wealth, and, as a consequence, her naval, military and political power.

The area covered by this deposit embraces the Longwy and Briey districts in France, now occupied by the German armies, and portions of Germany, Lorraine, of Luxembourg, and of Belgium, also, for the moment, in German possession. If Germany could secure a peace based on this wealth of iron ore, estimated at some 5,000,000,000 tons, would pass under her control.

There are reckoned to be 2,800 million tons of iron ore in all Germany, of which Lorraine alone is responsible for some 2,000 millions, or five-sevenths of the Empire's total supply. When Germany hypothecated the Lorraine beds, she was yielding about 500,000 tons of ore a year. In 1914 they were yielding over 1,000,000 tons as much. Up to 1903 Germany had no need to import from abroad a single ton of ore. Lorraine alone enabled her to maintain for over three decades an unprecedented industrial expansion.

Since the war Germany has depended almost entirely on the Lorraine mines for this iron and steel which are the basis of all modern warfare. She has got some from the occupied districts of France and Belgium and Luxembourg, and some, too, from Sweden, but from three-fifths to four-fifths of her output during the war has come from Lorraine. Without the production of the provinces she annexed from France 46 years ago Germany would long since have exhausted her capacity for turning out the material of war. Liberate those provinces from her clutch, with their 2,800,000 tons of iron ore a year, their 2,800,000 tons of steel smelting, and the useful coalfields of the Sarre valley—and a long step has been taken towards binding her down to peace.

Glance now at the French side of the question. In 1913 Alsace-Lorraine equalled the whole French output of pig-iron and reduced by itself only one-third less steel than all the French steel works combined. And yet the reserves of iron ore on the French side of the frontier are actually greater than on the German side. Why, then, with a large supply of raw material, was France lagging behind Germany in the production of pig-iron and steel? The reason is that France is badly off, while Germany and Belgium are well provided with coking coal; and that a very large proportion of the French ore was smelted into pig-iron in the blast furnaces of Germany and of Belgium, much to the advantage of the iron industries in both of these countries, but of doubtful benefit to France.

Suppose now Germany were to win and were to annex the greater half of the ferruginous basin that lies on French soil. Territorially it would be a very small acquisition. Economically its value would be incalculable. It would mean that after the war Germany would be able to raise some 40,000,000 tons of iron ore a year, while the French output would be reduced to a bare 4,000,000.

Suppose, on the other hand, that the Allied victory is as complete as we all intend it shall be, and that Alsace-Lorraine is restored to France. The situation in that case would be almost precisely reversed. France would be in a position to extract about 43,000,000 tons of ore a year, and Germany would have to remain satisfied with a maximum yield of some 8,000,000 tons.

INDUSTRIAL PRIMACY OF EUROPE. Even, however, when France has resumed her rightful ownership of the lost provinces, and in doing so has become the supreme storehouse of iron ore on the Continent, the coal problem will still remain. Not only will it remain; it will be aggravated—and in a form that will ask for its right solution from both the French and the British Governments a high degree of commercial diplomacy. France before the war consumed some 65,000,000 tons of coal a year. Of these she raised herself 41,000,000 tons and imported 24,000,000 tons, of which some 10,000,000 came from Great Britain and the remainder from Germany and Belgium. With the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine she will require at the least 40,000,000 tons a year extra. Where is she to get it from? Great Britain or Germany? Wales and Northumberland or Westphalia? From her Ally, with whom a mutually advantageous bargain can be struck, or from her enemy, who will certainly use his supply of coal as a magnet to attract French ore, to build up anew his iron and steel industries, and to dominate French metallurgy in the future as in the past?

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

WAR TRAGEDIES AND COMEDIES.

The novelist and the dramatist on the lookout for tragedy-comedy have already found a rich mine in the great war, says the *Evening News*.

Unparalleled, in every sense, the war is without precedent in the number of its cases of resurrection. "Recalled to life," says Jeremiah Crutcher in "A Tale of Two Cities," "you'd be in a blazing bad way, Jerry, if 'recalled to life' was to come into fashion."

Well, the great war has brought it very much into fashion, and a good many people have been much disturbed in consequence. But apart from the almost unthinkable joy of reunion in most instances and the awkward situation developed in others by the reappearance of the "dead," there have been many instances in which the comic side of the story has been uppermost throughout and the not least piquant feature the conflict between official reliance on its record and Tommy's assurance of his own existence. There was the soldier, for example, in the early days of the war who would keep calling at the War Office to draw his back pay, who stubbornly refused to admit that he was dead, though there was the proof in black and blue, so to speak, before his eyes.

The official attitude, quite naturally, was that of the Lord High Executioner in the "Hakado." "If we say you're dead, you're as good as dead—practically you are dead." But Tommy, with characteristic buoyancy has usually refused to accept this infallible declaration as gospel.

In the case, however, of the soldier who has not been able to get back to "Blighly" or to his comrades, except, perhaps, ultimately in a German camp as prisoner, the worst that he is still alive in face of the official announcement of his death is not so easy to find and mean while there are no end of bewildering, distressing, or amusing complications.

A SOUND MAXIM.

A sound maxim to rely on in these cases is this: "Never believe that a 'missing' man is dead." Here is a case in point—a case within the personal knowledge of the writer. The father of a young officer, who was engaged in the big fight on the Somme last year, was told that his boy had been killed. The story was that the young officer had been seen standing by his machine-gun in a wood when suddenly, as though the ground had opened and swallowed him, he disappeared.

Some brother officers told the father that his son's gun was surrounded by the British, and they could only conclude that he was killed. Another man said he had seen the young fellow lying dead. The family went into mourning, convinced that they had no ground for hope.

A little while after the father came to London to consult a friend. The two men were sitting together in a well-known hotel and the friend at the moment was still urging the father not to take the "missing" story as the last word, when the page came through the room calling out the numbers of certain rooms and carrying telegrams. "24," he shouted the boy. "That's me," said the father eagerly, and in an instant he had read the message. It was from the War Office, and informed him that his son was a prisoner in Germany.

In another case an officer who had made a war marriage had gone out early. The wife was practically told by the authorities that it was useless to make any further inquiries—there could be no doubt that her husband had been killed. Accepting the worst she put on widow's dress, sent out the customary cards, and received the condolences of her friends. Six months later an old friend came home on leave, and before he went back he and the supposed widow got married.

A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

The real husband, it turned out, was a prisoner in Germany, and the news of the wedding got through to him. He wrote to his wife, who was much upset, of course, at this strange turn of events. The difficulty of the situation was aggravated by the fact that the first husband's estate was of considerable value, while the wife had no money in her own right, nor had the new bridegroom.

The complications that arise in these cases are obviously so grave that it is perhaps unnecessary to emphasize the need for exceptional care in the circulation of the official announcements. In one case a married woman was notified of her husband's death. His will was proved and the estate administered. The real facts were that the man was detained in Flanders and was unable to communicate with his wife for some months.

Another man who was officially reported killed had gone out with a platoon, none of whom was heard of again. Afterwards he turned out to be a prisoner in Germany.

The wives of soldiers who have gone into mourning on the strength of official but inaccurate announcements may be found in every part of the Kingdom. In some instances there have been memorial services for men who may yet be among the victorious army, and in others a notice on his memorial card is a legend that has been read by many a soldier returned to life.

"I had him buried," wrote the major in the case of an artillery man of West Bromwich, who was at the time alive and well, "with others of his comrades who were killed at the same time, and above them we placed a wooden cross."

And about the time the man himself was writing, "I am quite well. I am just being sent down to the base."

SERIOUS FIRE AT MASONIC HALL.

DAMAGE BY FLAMES AND WATER.

A serious fire broke out on January 9th in the godown on the top floor of the Masonic Hall, No. 30 the Bund, Shanghai. The fire is thought to have been caused by a defect in the heating plant in the godown on the top floor adjoining the kitchen. From the heating plant the fire rapidly spread to the lath in the roof of the godown and also followed the stovepipe to the kitchen and likewise spread to the servants' quarters. Owing to the difficulty in transference quick progress and before it could be controlled had broken through the ceiling of the main hall, or temple. Masons who had heard of the fire, immediately rushed to the building, and with the help of a number of citizens, carried out valuable papers, books, furniture, etc. The greatest damage was done in the godown on the top floor, which is used as a storeroom. Valuable papers, manuscripts and a quantity of furniture were stored there. All the charters were saved, although many of the papers in the archives and the furniture were hopelessly damaged. Many of the Bibles and books donated by members years ago, and which cannot be replaced, were destroyed. The big hall was a sorry sight. The fire had broken a hole of some 12 by 3 ft. through the ceiling and the fresco work had fallen a blazing mass into a pool of water on the floor. There were other holes in the ceiling caused by the brigade, who had chopped them to allow the water to seep through. It was water, water everywhere. In fact it came down like a waterfall in many portions of the building. The ante-room, the billiard room and the refreshment room of the club premises were all seriously damaged by water. The big organ, which is built in the wall in the end gallery of the main hall, was badly damaged, and it will cost no small sum to restore the instrument. Apart from the damage done to the building and furniture an irretrievable loss has been suffered in the old books and manuscripts which were destroyed in the archives. Practically all the lodge paraphernalia was saved. It is estimated that fully 15,000 would be the loss, all of which is covered by insurance. The Masonic Hall, which is one of the finest buildings on the Bund, was only founded in 1910. The organization was founded in Shanghai in 1859 and after an uphill fight in which they occupied various buildings in the city, secured the present property.

ALLIES AND THEIR SHIPPING.

In the House of Commons on November 21st Mr. Houston asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shipping Controller whether the United States Shipping Board had allocated to the service of Italy some twenty-five steamers; whether, notwithstanding this, British steamers carrying or intended to carry, food to this country were being diverted to France and Italy; whether many large British steamers were employed in carrying American troops to this side; and whether, with every effort to assist our Allies to the utmost of our abilities, due regard would nevertheless be given to the food necessities of the United Kingdom.

Sir L. Chiozza Money replied that the answer to the four parts of the question was in the affirmative. The tonnage assistance given by Great Britain was decided after careful consideration of the different needs of the Allies, including Great Britain. Our Allies were fully aware of the tonnage sacrifices made by Great Britain in the common cause.

Mr. Houston—Is it a fact that we have already given over two million tons of shipping to France, and is the hon. gentleman aware that the French have only requisitioned their own ships within the last few days, and have been using their ships for commercial purposes, and have been exploiting British shipping?

Sir L. Chiozza Money—It is perfectly true we have been good Allies in this matter. Does the hon. member suggest that what has been done has been done grudgingly? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Houston—Why does the hon. gentleman say I suggested it had been done grudgingly?

Mr. Hodge—Should there not be some reciprocity between the Allies in this matter?

Sir L. Chiozza Money—There is reciprocity in all these matters.

THE WRECK OF THE "POOCHI."

At H. M. Police Court, Shanghai, on January 10th, Mr. G. W. King, H. M. Coroner, concluded his inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Robert Knox, second engineer of the C. M. S. *Poochi*, which occurred as a result of a collision between the vessel and the steamer *Hain-jung*, belonging to the same company. The Coroner found that Robert Knox died on January 6th from shock and exposure brought about by immersion in ice-cold water, the result of a collision between the steamers *Poochi* and *Hain-jung* in the South Channel, between Middle Ground and the South East Knoll Buoy.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

As all the old members of the Shanghai Municipal Council were willing to serve again and there were no other nominations they were returned without opposition. The members of the Council for the next year, therefore, are:—Mr. E. I. Ezra, Baron Y. Fujimura, Count L. Jesteraki, Messrs. J. Johnston, W. L. Merriman, E. C. Pearce (Chairman), E. C. Richards, E. D. White, and A. S. E. White-Cooper (Vice-Chairman). Dr. E. S. Ivy was the only nominee for the office of Land Commissioner for the Municipal year 1918 and is considered to be elected.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG WAO SAN PO."]

CANTON, January 15th.

THE PARLIAMENT AT NANKING. We are informed from a reliable source that Li-shun, the Tschun of Kiang-su, will request all the important members of the North and South to convene the former Parliament in Nanking. This proposal is strongly approved by many high military and political leaders, and it is said that Li-shun will be appointed Vice-President after the Parliament is convened.

GENERAL LUNG. General Lung Chai-kwong, on assuming office as Inspector-Commissioner of the two Kwangs in King-Chow, has re-appointed every official in the place. We learn that a number of magistrates and leaders, who were recently dismissed by General Lung, have returned to Canton to report the matter.

General Lung, referring to the Tschun's statement about the bombardment of the city that Lung's supporters caused the disturbance, has sent a telegram explaining that he (Lung) is responsible for the peace and good-order of the two provinces, and would never descend to such insignificant act as to order his men to disturb the state. He would only send troops to inspect various places and secure real peace. Lung added that the troops he had sent to Lui-chow and Yung-kong are over 20,000 strong, and would be enough for protection. If the military power in Canton is insufficient, he may send a few regiments thither at once to strengthen it.

MOVEMENT OF NORTHERN SQUADRON. The authorities have received reports from Amoy stating that the Northern Squadron, which left Amoy a few days ago, suddenly returned last night. The gunboats are ashoring in Amoy waters, without any suspicious movements.

RETURNING THANKS. We learn that Dr. Wu Ting-fong and many of the local gentry have decided to invite the Tschun, Civil-Governor, Admiral Ching Pik-kwong, and other leaders to tea in the Commercial Chamber to-morrow. Heartily thanks will be given to the three officials named for firmly securing peace and order at a time of confusion, thus saving the people from disaster.

CIVIL-GOVERNOR ENTERTAINS THE CONSULS.

The Civil-Governor, Li Yew-hon, entertained on the 15th inst. the various Consuls on the Shamen and many of the foreign missionaries. The Governor was requested by a missionary, who has just come from Toi-shan, district, to send more troops to put an end to the robberies which are occurring within by day and night. The Governor agreed to give the matter his attention.

GENERALISIMO TO VISIT THE FIGHTING FRONTS.

The Canton Intelligence Bureau states that the Generalissimo of the Military Government (Sun Yat-sen) may visit the various fronts in order the better to be able to direct the general campaign.

COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH-WEST PROVINCES. A council representing the independent South-Western provinces will soon be held. Its meeting place, for the present, will be Canton.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (RESERVE).

MUSKETRY COURSE.

The attention of Nos. 3 and 4 Platoons and of Sections 9, 10, and 11 and all of No. 2 Company is drawn to Orders of January 14th-15th with reference to Musketry Practice on Sunday next, January 20th.

PATROL DUTIES.

Copies of the Schedule of Patrol duties for 5 weeks from January 24th to February 27th (with both dates inclusive) has been sent to Warning Officers. Patrolmen who do not duly receive their warnings for duty are required to immediately communicate with their respective Warning Officers.

ROUTE MARCH.

For the convenience of members it is stated that the Parade ordered for Thursday, January 17th, will disband on the Praya, opposite Queen's Statue Square.

By Order, T. F. HUGHES, A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.

January 15th.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 15th January is as follows:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate receipts for 7 weeks.
This Year	\$11,375	\$23,611
Last Year	11,780	23,948
Decrease	405	337

CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE TO HONGKONG.

THE COLONY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TIENTSIN FLOOD RELIEF FUND.

The following is a copy of a letter received by His Majesty's Minister at Peking from the Wai Chiao Pu acknowledging the contribution from Hongkong towards the Tientsin Flood Relief Fund:—

PEKING, December 21st, 1917.
Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 17th instant saying that you had received the following communication from the Governor of Hongkong:—
"The Legislative Council of Hongkong has voted a sum of \$100,000 to be sent to Peking in relief of flood victims. I have the honour to enclose a draft for \$94,766.73, being the equivalent in Peking currency, and request you to forward it to the Metropolitan Union Flood Relief Council, together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council."
You send the draft for \$94,766.73 and the minutes of the meeting of the Council with the request that they may be forwarded to the Metropolitan Union Flood Relief Council.

I have sent the draft to the Reorganization Bureau for distribution and should like to express my deep and unbounded gratitude for the Governor of Hongkong's neighbourly and sympathetic desire to relieve the sufferers from the floods.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to transmit my sincere thanks accordingly.

(Sgd.) KAO ERH CH'EN
(on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs).

MARINE COURT.

CONCEALED COMPARTMENTS IN A CARGO BOAT.

Yesterday, at the Marine Court, before Commander C. W. Beckwith, R.N., Leung Yee, a boatwoman, was charged with unlawfully having a false bottom or secret compartment for the concealment of goods or persons in her cargo boat No. 1,007v.

P. S. Murphy said that on the 2nd instant at 9.30 p.m. he raided the defendant's cargo boat, in Yaumati, and found at the stern, underneath the sleeping compartments, 1,737 baskets of coal concealed. He arrested the junk and the defendant, and found that there was a secret door from the main hold to the sleeping quarters. On the after part of the hold there were a number of empty coal baskets. The cargo boat was employed for carrying coal, and the coal found was identified by the Chinese firm who employed defendant's boat for the purpose.

The defendant said she had been away at a wedding and when she got back she found coal concealed. She sent the *loki* at once to tell the coal-owners that some coal was in the living quarters.

No evidence was produced to support the statement.

Commander Beckwith fined defendant \$100, with the alternative of two months' hard labour, the boat to be kept by the Police until the secret compartments have been removed at the defendant's cost. The boat was also to be inspected by the Chief Junk Inspector after being released.

Commander Beckwith remarked that it was the second charge of the same nature against the defendant.

THROWING RUBBISH IN THE HARBOUR.

Chan Tak, Lam Shu and four others, of the licensed junk No. T. 3,079 H, pleaded guilty to depositing a quantity of rubbish in Victoria, junk anchorage, without the written permission of the Harbour Master, on the 11th instant.

Commander Beckwith fined each defendant \$10, with the alternative of a month's rigorous imprisonment.

FISHERMAN FINED.

Ng Kom Fong, a fisherman of Lamma Island, was charged with failing to exhibit his board showing the number of his stake net and refusing to show his licence to the police at Pak-Kok, Lamma Island, on the 6th instant.

Commander Beckwith fined defendant \$20, with the alternative of a month's hard labour.

The Japanese Government has accepted the offer of Mr. K. Yamashita, a well-known shipowner of Yokohama, to contribute a million yen for national defence purposes. The money will be spent on development of military aviation.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

(BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR WILLIAM REES DAVIES, K.C.))

CHIEF JUSTICE'S ADVICE TO SOLICITOR'S CLERK.

Lo Wa Kam, a solicitor's clerk, applied for his discharge.

The Official Receiver (Mr. Hugh A. Nisbet) informed the Court that three dividends had been paid, amounting to fifty-four per cent. The Receiving Order was made on the debtor's petition on July 20th, 1912, and debtor was adjudicated bankrupt on August 10th, 1912. The assets were nil and the liabilities amounted to \$1,835, which was mostly money borrowed from Indians. The indebtedness was increased either in the shape of guarantees or money borrowed. The Official Receiver recommended that the debtor be granted an immediate discharge.

The Chief Justice, in granting the bankrupt his discharge, said—Tell him I strictly advise him to keep out of the clutches of the money-lenders, either as a borrower or as a guarantor for anybody else.

A SHIPPING VENTURE THAT FAILED.

The public examination was adjourned of Chang Yan Chi, a partner in the firm of the Wah On Cheung firm, formerly carrying on business at 83, Connaught Road, whose personal liabilities amounted to \$20,202 and assets to \$18,300.

The debtor was a partner of the Ki On Steamship Co., which has ceased to do business, and in which he invested \$3,000. The whole of this capital has been lost. The total liabilities of the Ki On Steamship Co. were \$3,384.40.

A TRUSTEE APPOINTED.

In the matter of the Kung Wo Shing firm, who applied to be adjudicated insolvent, the Official Receiver said that a petition against the debtors was filed on October 24th, 1917. The first general meeting of the creditors was held at the Official Receiver's office on November 23rd last, and was adjourned to December 7th, when it was resolved that the debtors be adjudicated bankrupt and that Tsang Ut Chi be appointed trustee.

The Chief Justice granted the application and appointed Tsang Ut Chi trustee of the estate of the petitioning firm.

A DEALER IN OLD NEWSPAPERS.

Chan Sui Sang, a trader of 191, Praya East, petitioned the Court for a Receiving Order, returning his assets at \$365 and liabilities \$1,120, due mostly on promissory notes and other transactions. In addition to the sum of \$1,120 there were due to various firms, under contracts for the purchase of bales of newspaper, a sum of \$130,000, while on payment of this sum of \$130,000 the debtor would be entitled to delivery of the said bales of old newspapers, which at the present market rate would be worth \$110,000. Of this sum \$5,000 had already been contracted to be sold by the debtor.

Mr. W. B. Hind, for the petitioner, applied for an adjournment, which was granted.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER APPOINTED TRUSTEE.

In the case of the Tong Fat firm, Mr. Nisbet said that the creditors had unanimously decided that the Official Receiver be appointed trustee.

The Chief Justice consented to this.

A PETITIONER'S EXAMINATION.

Chang Yan Chi appeared for his public examination.

Examined by Mr. Nisbet, he said that the amount of his debts was \$20,000 odd, which were his personal liabilities. He had borrowed the money owing to his failure in business. He was not doing any business at present. He had no property in the country now. He possessed a few paddy fields which had already been sold. He owed people money, and as he could not pay them the fields were occupied by the creditors. These were taken possession of before he had filed his petition. The petitioner contradicted himself and said that it was after he had filed his petition that his creditors came round and took possession of his paddy fields. Since the application he had not sold any paddy fields, which were all that he possessed, and were worth about \$1,000 to \$2,000. He gave the family house to his sons four or five years ago. This property did not stand in his name in the District Office, but in that of his sons. It was not registered because it

(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

A RUSSIAN VAGRANT.

A Russian, named Erdwan Bouvan, was charged with being a vagrant. Defendant stated that he wanted to leave the Colony, but was prevented from doing so by a fractured arm. He was an old soldier who had been discharged from the Army.

Mr. Dyer Ball ordered defendant to be sent to the House of Detention.

DANGEROUS BLASTING OPERATIONS.

An old Chinese was charged with carrying out blasting operations on the hillside out of hours, thereby endangering human life.

Sergeant Moss said that as a result of the blasting operations a match was damaged and a man slightly injured.

Defendant stated that it was impossible to protect the public from blasting operations.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$75.

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

A Chinese pleaded guilty to displaying fireworks for sale in his shop without keeping them under a glass cover.

Defendant stated that he forgot to put the fireworks in a glass case.

Sergeant Ingham said he had been sent out by the C.S.P. to inquire into the cause of frequent explosions in defendant's shop. On going to the premises witness saw a string of fire-crackers, lying exposed on the counter. A fire might be easily caused, as the result of an explosion.

Mr. Dyer Ball fined defendant \$20.

THEFT FROM A STEAMER.

Two Chinese, Yip Tim and Wong Tuck, were charged with stealing a ham, a Christmas cake, two knives and a sheet from a steamer in harbour.

Mr. Leo d'Almada appeared for the defendants.

Inspector Gordon said that the two defendants, who were cooks on board the steamer, were discharged on arrival at Hongkong. The men got into a sampan and were being rowed away when Sergeant Bond arrested them on suspicion and found the articles in their possession.

Mr. G. Johnson, chief cook of the steamer, identified the articles.

The first defendant stated that he had purchased the ham in America; the knives were given him by a friend. He admitted taking the sheet, but said he did so forgetfully.

The second defendant denied all knowledge of the theft.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced the first defendant to six months' hard labour and discharged the second defendant.

PRESERVED EGGS PROVE TO BE AMMUNITION.

A Chinese youth, just returned from America, was charged with being in unlawful possession of a quantity of ammunition on board a steamer in harbour.

Mr. B. Johnson, who appeared for the defendant, stated that the ammunition was found in a basket which did not belong to defendant, who had his own luggage with him at the time. A revenue officer, who boarded the vessel, ordered defendant to open the basket and he did so, as it belonged to a friend of his.

A revenue officer stated that when asked what the basket contained, defendant replied: "Preserved eggs." The ammunition was found concealed in old salmon tins.

Mr. J. R. Wood (to defendant)—What are you? Defendant—I am a Chinese. (Laughter.)

Defendant, who spoke English, stated that he had arrived from America and was proceeding to Canton when he was arrested. Nothing in the basket belonged to him.

Mr. J. R. Wood discharged defendant.

was a family possession. The landed properties that were registered in his name in the District Office in China were taken possession of by his creditors, and he had signed documents transferring them to his creditors. All except the paddy fields, the deeds of which he handed over to the Official Receiver, were taken over by his creditors.

Mr. Nisbet—You have already said that the paddy fields were taken over by your creditors—Debtor: The paddy fields are still my own property.

Did you transfer any property since the time you were sent to gaol six years ago?—No.

Mr. Nisbet—The Official Trustee is of opinion that the debtor disposed of property worth \$50,000 outside the Colony. He has not got sufficient evidence yet, and I would, therefore, ask your Lordship to adjourn the case *sine die*.

The case was adjourned *sine die* to give the Official Trustee an opportunity to make further investigations.

THE SHOOTING OF P. S. JOHNSTONE.

ROYAL ENGINEER CHARGED.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, before Mr. J. R. Wood, William Percival Bloomfield, Royal Engineer, was formally charged with the murder of Lance-Sergeant N. G. Johnstone, of the Hongkong Police Force.

The defendant is a well-known footballer and has turned out for the Engineer team in the Football League fixtures. The case created a great deal of interest, and the Magistracy was filled with spectators.

Mr. Wood, addressing the prisoner, said—I do not want you to make any statement. I am going to read the charge against you, and at some future date, which I will fix, I shall take the evidence against you, after which, if the evidence is against you, I will have to commit you for trial before the Supreme Court. The charge against you is one of wilful murder, committed at about five minutes after three o'clock on the morning of the 13th of January last, when you are alleged to have shot Lance-Sergeant Johnstone, of the Hongkong Police Force. Do you understand the charge?

Defendant—Yes, sir, I quite understand it.

Mr. Wood—All right, I remand the case till Tuesday, the 22nd instant, at 10 a.m., but even then I shall not go into the evidence, but will fix a suitable date for hearing it.

Defendant—Do I get a solicitor to defend me at the trial?

Mr. Wood—You are entitled to a solicitor to defend you.

Defendant—Thank you, sir.

SPORT.

BILLIARDS.

SOLDIERS' CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The soldiers made a bad start in the semi-final of this tournament at the Soldiers' Club, on Monday evening, and at the end of the first game were 24 points behind. In the second game Gunnar Donaldson recovered 38 of the deficit, the sitting closing with the Police Reserves 50 points ahead. The building was cold, the cushions were dead and the table slow in consequence, and the players were not nearly up to their usual standard.

Score:—
85TH CO., R.G.A. H.K.P.R. 3 AND 4 PLATOONS.
Corpl. Gillard 150 Mr. Guimaraes 250
Gunn. Donaldson 250 Mr. Sequeira 212

FOOTBALL.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

Middlesex v. R.G.A.—Navy Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Lynch. Staff and Departments v. R.E. Res.—Navy Ground. Kick-off, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Byrne.

87th Co., R.G.A. v. Middlesex Res.—Navy Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Horlop.

The following team will represent the Staff and Departments:—Glenny, Wain and Lawrence; Townsend, Knight, and Conner; Sheriff, Brown, Taylor, Ellarby, and Kirby.

SERVICES' ENTERTAINMENT FUND.

The following subscriptions to the above fund have been received by the Treasurer during the week ending January 14th, and are gratefully acknowledged:—

"Punch and Judy"	\$ 50.00
"A monthly subscriber"	5.00
J. M. Gordon	5.00
G. E. Stewart	10.00
A. O. L.	50.00
"A reader of the Hongkong Daily Press"	20.00
H. and S.B.C., Interest at 2 per cent.	14.77

Already acknowledged \$154.77

Total \$309.77

* Monthly subscription.
\$ Donation.
T. ROBINSON
(General Secretary)
F. G. B. HASTINGS, R.N.
(Naval Secretary)
C. L. COOPER-HUNT, C.F.
(Military Secretary and Treasurer).
Packs of cards are again required for distribution amongst the troops. They will be gratefully received by the Rev. C. L. Cooper-Hunt, C.F., 7, Queen's Gardens, May Road.

"THE COURT CARDS."

The farewell season of "The Court Cards" will commence on Saturday night. Particular interest attaches to the re-appearance after a prolonged absence, of the old "Joker" of the pack—Edgar Warwick himself. It is also announced that five per cent. of the total receipts of the season are to be given to the Red Cross Fund, and full houses are anticipated. The booking is at Messrs. Montrose's.

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Drawing Tables,
Water Colours,
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Angle Mirrors,
Ranging Poles,
Levelling Rods,
Measuring Tapes and Chains,
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At 60% reductions to clear.

THE WAR.

SIR A. GEDDES ON GREAT BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT.

FURTHER COMBING OUT NECESSARY.

SUCCESSFUL AIR RAID ON GERMANY.

M. CAILLAUX IMPRISONED.

GERMANY'S 1919 CLASS IN THE FIELD.

FIGHTING IN RUSSIA.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREAT BRITAIN'S MAN-POWER.

THE EMPIRE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIED FORCES.

LONDON, January 14th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Auckland Geddes, Minister of National Service, made an important statement reviewing the whole question of man-power, which he declared was the central problem of the war. Every day Great Britain's fighting force was becoming more important to the Allies. We must prepare to play a larger part on the battlefield until America was ready, but not at the expense of vital national industries, nor regardless of the Navy and food.

He announced that the Government had decided that at present the military age should neither be lowered nor raised and compulsion should not be introduced in Ireland, but they would not hesitate to adopt any or all of these measures if the military needs could not be met otherwise.

ALL-IMPORTANCE OF THE NAVY.
Sir Auckland Geddes emphasised the all-importance of the Navy. "We have trodden," he said, "some strange paths with little profit since 1914. Let us return to the faith of our forefathers and recognise that, on the sea and by the sea, we live."

NEARLY A MILLION ADDITIONAL GERMANS FOR THE WEST.

The Government had examined the entire question of the strength, character and composition of the forces of our selves, our Allies and our enemies in the light of the situation in Russia. The result of the inactivity of Russia would be that 950,000 additional German troops would be available for the Western Front and several Austro-Hungarian Divisions for the Italian Front. Taking everything into consideration the Russian defection would possibly mean that 1,600,000 Austro-German troops would be available for elsewhere.

Nevertheless, the resources of the Allies were sufficient to assure victory. Nothing but a psychological catastrophe in one or other of the Allied countries could save the Central Powers.

CARELESSNESS OF HUMAN LIFE.
The Government had most carefully considered the question of casualties, and had determined that carelessness as regards human life should be stamped out everywhere. He was not accusing any Admiral or General of recklessness, but simply laying down an essential general principle.

STRENGTH OF BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY.

Before asking the House to consider the demands for more men, he wished to show what the British League of Nations had done. In August, 1914, the personnel of the Navy was 180,000, and that of the Regular Army, including the Reserves, 450,000, and the Territorials a quarter of a million. Now the personnel of the Navy was 400,000, and the Army four million.

The Air Service strength in 1914 was 3,000; to-day it was 125,000. However, to the above figures must be added the

killed, died, missing, prisoners, and discharged. Taking everything into consideration the effort of the British nations under the heading "provision of men for the armed forces of the Crown" amounted to not far below 7,500,000 men.

THE COLONIAL CONTRIBUTION.

England had contributed 4,630,000, Scotland 620,000, Wales 230,000, Ireland 170,000, and the Dominions and Colonies 900,000. The remaining million was composed of native fighters, the Labour Corps, carriers, etc., which represented the splendid contribution by India and various African and other dependencies, but even these figures failed to indicate our total effort, for they took no account of the manufacture of munitions, ships, (Naval and mercantile), aircraft, the increased production of food, iron ore, oil, and supplies of all kinds which we furnished to the Allies.

OUR ARMIES MUST BE MAINTAINED.

If this effort was to be carried on and sacrifices not made in vain, our Armies must be maintained throughout 1918. Their demands could be met from two sources—firstly, from the reserves at Home and abroad; and, secondly, from the men remaining in civil life. Even after the readjusting of the Home armies to enable the greatest possible proportion to be sent abroad, it would still be necessary to raise 450,000 from the men in civil life. This was absolutely the minimum requirement.

NO LOWERING OF AGE-LIMIT.

He declared that the lowering of the military age, except as a last resort, was contrary to our natural instincts and, economically, unsound. The Government felt very strongly it would be contrary to the national interests to raise the age limit whilst there were large numbers of fit youths, civilly employed, who could be released without seriously endangering essential work. The Government was satisfied that the reasons which led to the exclusion of Ireland from the Military Service Act had lost none of their cogency.

COMBING OUT THE YOUTHS.

The Cabinet was determined to make available, militarily, a very large number of youths engaged in essential industries, replacing them with women and ex-soldiers. This would leave in civil life a large reserve of men of over 41 which our enemies would not possess and which could be thrown into the scale, if necessary.

A WARNING TO YOUTHFUL WORKERS AND PACIFISTS.

The pacifists were now attempting to stir up strife in munition works among youths engaged in vital industries, threatening to hold up the output of ships and aeroplanes in order to force the Government to exempt them. This would mean the sending of wounded and older men to the front and limiting or stopping soldiers' leave. If the threat was carried out, the youths would meet a blast of hatred and contempt, which would surprise them.

EXEMPTION AND PROTECTION CERTIFICATES.

The main object of the proposals was to secure equality in sacrifice as far as was practicable. The Bill, which would now be introduced, provided for the

abolition of the two months' exemption granted to men leaving certified occupations. The effect of this would be that such men would join the Army more rapidly and more numerously than hitherto. The Bill also empowered the withdrawal of certificates of exemption granted, on occupational grounds, to a large number of men who are at present holding such certificates and who are engaged on work practically of no national importance.

After mentioning that over a million men held protection certificates, which would presently be cancelled, Sir Auckland Geddes proceeded to explain that only men fit for general service would be taken from the vital industries, and the number required would be secured by a clean cut, determined on the age basis, for each particular occupation.

THE VITAL PROBLEM OF SHIPPING.

Shipping was a vital problem. Every ton built, or saved from submergence, or economized by substituting Home production for imports meant a ton available to bring the American forces into the field. Our enemies were staking everything upon our failure to solve this problem. Our success in solving it meant certain victory.

NATIONAL WORK OR INTERNMENT FOR ENEMY ALIENS.

Aliens would not henceforth be employed in certain restricted occupations of an unessential character without a permit, and uninterned enemy aliens, if at all, must work for the nation or be interned. Arrangements were being made for an extension of the employment of schoolboys, of whom 4,000 were successfully used last season, with the Boy Scouts, for harvesting and cleaning land.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

Women munition workers, including Admiralty workers, numbered nearly 814,000 at the end of last year, compared with 227,000 in 1914. Still more women of all classes were necessary.

Sir A. Geddes expressed his thanks to the Military Authorities of the New Zealand, South African, and Newfoundland contingents who consented to grant furlough to skilled agriculturists for work on the land. Their timely help, coming at a critical period in the agricultural cycle, had been greatly appreciated.

THIRTEEN STANDARD SHIPS DELIVERED.

ONE SUNK.

LONDON, January 14th.

In the House of Commons Sir Leo Chiozza Money stated that up to the 31st ultimo thirteen standard ships were delivered and one was sunk.

PETROLEUM BILL DROPPED. SPECIAL LEGISLATION REQUIRED.

LONDON, January 14th.

Mr. Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons that the Petroleum Bill, tabled on the 25th October last, was dropped because the necessary action could not be taken without a special legislation.

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP RAMMED.

NEW YORK, January 15th.

The steamship *Texas*, with a cargo of nitrates for European ports, has wireless that she has been rammed and is sinking. Her crew of 43 have taken to the boats.

M. CAILLAUX IN PRISON.

PARIS, January 15th.

M. Caillaux has arrived and been lodged in the Goye prison. This has created a sensation.

The *Intransigent* states that the authorities found incriminating documents, compelling his arrest forthwith.

EARLIER CABLES.

PARIS, January 14th.

M. Caillaux has arrived.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES.

LONDON, January 14th.

The War Office announces that Sir Alfred Keogh is resuming duties as General Executive Officer to the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

LATEST CABLES.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA. SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARIES DENOUNCE BOLSHIEVISTS.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

The Social Revolutionaries of the Constituent Assembly have issued a manifesto bitterly denouncing the Bolshevists as bringing the country on the verge of a new and overwhelming war, and declaring that the restoration of peace was of paramount importance, but only the Constituent Assembly would be able to achieve it. The army should be reformed on the voluntary basis. The nationalisation of land without compensation was favoured, also the nationalisation of mines, private railways and State control of industry, with the widest participation to the working classes in them.

EARLIER CABLES.

OLD GOVERNMENT LOANS CANCELLED.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

The Superior Council of National Property has drafted a decree cancelling all National Loans issued by the Imperial and Bourgeois Governments; and all domestic Loans, the stock of which is held by foreigners, are cancelled unreservedly.

Only short-term Loans of the National Treasury are considered valid.

COSSACKS ENGAGE THE BOLSHIEVISTS.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

A despatch says that Rostoff station at Debatzovo, on the Ekaterinlav Railway, has thrice changed hands. On Thursday night, the Cossacks, learning from a despatch from Luganskaya that considerable Bolshevik reinforcements with artillery had left the station, took up a position near the railway awaiting their own reinforcements from Mariupol. Fighting was renewed on Friday morning. The Bolsheviks advanced somewhat in the direction of Toganog. During Friday, a strong force of Donets and Kadan Cossacks traversed Toganog, going northwards.

It is stated that General Kaledin has also gone northwards.

A despatch from Ufa states that Bolshevik artillery has arrived in the town.

BOLSHIEVICK TROOPS SEIZE BANKS.

Bands of Bolsheviks seized all the banks and Government buildings. The Bolsheviks are sending considerable forces with artillery to Cheliabinsk, where serious fighting is anticipated.

SECOND UKRAINIAN REGIMENT DISARMED.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

A newspaper despatch from Kharkoff says the Maximalists have disarmed the Second Ukrainian Regiment after surrounding the barracks with armoured cars and machine guns, which opened fire. The Ukrainians surrendered with 7,000 rifles and thirteen machine-guns. The Commander of the regiment was arrested.

CAPITALISTS ARRESTED AT PETROGRAD.

Searches and arrests continue in the town. Twelve capitalists have been arrested, including a newspaper proprietor. They were required to donate a million rubles for the unemployed. They deposited the money conditionally and it was disbursed by the Municipality. The Maximalists are dissatisfied and those arrested have not been released.

INTERNECINE STRIFE EXPECTED.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

A recrudescence of internecine strife is expected in the capital, owing to the believed Bolshevik intention to declare the forthcoming Congress of Soviets as a National Convention in lieu of a Constituent Assembly. It is a significant fact that two cruiser-destructors have arrived for which the ice channel was specially broken.

The Social Revolutionaries, including Madame Bravkovskaya, and also the Committee of the first All-Russian Soviets, are vigorously urging the citizens, particularly the working classes and the Army, to organise to defend the Assembly by force.

HUNGER-RIOTING IN MOSCOW.

PETROGRAD, January 14th.

Hunger-rioting has occurred in the Kolomo government at Moscow, the crowd demanding the disarming of the Red Guard and the handing over of authority to the Municipality. Twelve people are reported killed and 120 wounded.

UNEMPLOYED SOLDIERS.

Unemployed soldiers in Petrograd are going backwards and forwards between the provinces seeking food, flour and butter which they sell in Petrograd at exorbitant prices. Soldiers take possession of the railway carriages, hanging on the steps and lying on the roofs of the carriages.

IMPORTANT GERMAN CONFERENCE.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO REPLY TO THE ENTENTE.

AMSTERDAM, January 14th.

The Berlin Press says that important conferences between the High Command and politicians were inaugurated on the 12th instant, when the Kaiser received the Crown Prince, and Marshal Hindenburg and General Ludendorff conferred with numerous political leaders. There was also a most important discussion between the High Command and Count Hertling on the 13th. These conferences form the basis of a discussion with the Kaiser on the 14th instant.

Count Hertling speaks on domestic policy on Tuesday and replies to the Entente statesmen on Wednesday.

Two Munich papers, commenting on President Wilson, declare that he has cleverly seized on the acute differences prevailing in Germany on the question of peace in order to shake confidence in her policy. The state of indecisible confusion in the direction of the policy must be ended. Count Hertling must immediately reply to President Wilson and prove to him that Germany does not resemble a South American State, where policy is announced through military pronouncements.

THE SCANDINAVIAN CONVOY FINDING OF COURT OF ENQUIRY.

LONDON, January 14th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Eric Geddes stated that the Admiralty had confirmed the finding of the Court of Enquiry, that the escorting vessels did their best to protect the Scandinavian convoy, which was sunk on the 17th ultimo.

The escort fought in a proper and seamanlike manner, and covering the forces took all possible steps to come to their assistance and prevent the escape of the enemy.

The Board was of opinion that the circumstances preventing the covering forces arriving in time were unpreventable, and Admiral Beatty's dispositions were the best possible with the available forces.

THIS YEAR'S RUBBER PRODUCTION.

REDUCTION OF TWENTY PER CENT. AGREED.

LONDON, January 14th.

The Times says it is understood that a good many rubber companies have agreed to the Rubber Association's proposal to restrict the production in 1918 to a figure representing a reduction of twenty per cent. on the 1917 crop. The proposal, therefore, seems likely to be generally adopted.

FINE CHINA TEA.

LARGE STOCKS IN LONDON.

LONDON, January 14th.

A firm of wholesale tea merchants states that a million pounds of fine China tea is at present idle in dealers' hands as, owing to the reduction in retail price, it can only be sold at considerable loss. They suggest that it should be used to relieve the pressure on the cheaper sorts of tea.

ADMIRALTY CHANGES. DETAILS OF THE NEW REFORMS.

LONDON, January 14th.

It is officially explained that the Board of Admiralty is now divided into two heads, namely, Operations and Maintenance. In the case of the former the principle of isolating the work of planning and directing war operations from all other work, in order that it may receive the entire attention of officers, is carried a step further.

The First Sea Lord, Admiral Wemyss; the Deputy-Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral Fremantle; and the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral Duff, have been relieved from dealing with any questions not directly connected with the war.

A great mass of important "paper work" and administrative detail will be diverted to the Deputy First Sea Lord, Rear-Admiral Hope.

Admiral Wemyss will have two Directors immediately under him, namely, the Director of the Intelligence Division, Rear-Admiral Hall, and the Director of Training and Staff Duties, Rear-Admiral Lay.

Tranco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SNOW POSTPONES GERMANY'S OFFENSIVE. ENEMY'S 1919 CLASS IN THE FIELD.

LONDON, January 14th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters states:—Heavy snow has again fallen and postponed indefinitely the much-advertised German offensive.

The Germans are using a lighter type of flame-throwers, not requiring several operators. The enemy, by searchlights and fireworks, are constantly seeking to locate our Tanks.

Drafts of Germany's 1919 class are now appearing opposite the British front.

We recently captured two improved field howitzers with a maximum range of 11,000 yards. A captured document records an instance where only 9 out of 24 field howitzers survived our bombardment.

THE BRITISH FRONT. EARLIER CABLES.

GOOD WORK BY CANADIANS.

LONDON, January 14th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The Canadians, last night, successfully raided to the north of Lens, and brought back prisoners. Patrol encounters to the east of Mericourt resulted favourably.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

LIVELY ARTILLERY FIRING.

PARIS, January 14th.

A communiqué states:—There was lively artillery firing in Champagne, on the right of the Meuse, especially north of Louvemont, where our batteries caught enemy assemblages.

EARLIER CABLES.

ENEMY HURLED BACK.

PARIS, January 14th.

A communiqué says:—Accurate fire dispersed enemy detachments trying to reach our lines in the sector of Goose Hill, on the left bank of the Meuse.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AIR RAIDS INTO ENEMY COUNTRY.

BRITISH AVIATORS' GOOD WORK.

LONDON, January 14th.

Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy raided a post south-eastward of Armenia. A few of our men are missing. Hostile artillery has been active in the Saint Julien area, and south-eastward of Hargicourt.

Aeroplane carried out bombing and machine-gunning incessantly on Sunday. They dropped four hundred bombs on a large ammunition dump near Boulers and on billets and huts on the railway junction. Machine-guns attacked a party of the enemy engaged in extinguishing a large fire causing casualties. The men scattered, and the fire was left to burn itself out.

Eight hostile machines were brought down and three were driven down. Three of ours are missing.

There was better weather to-day and our squadrons carried out a most successful raid on Germany at daylight against the railway-station and munition factories in Karlsruhe and in the Rhine valley. They dropped one-and-a-quarter tons of bombs with excellent results. Bursts were observed among the buildings, sidings on the main railway junction, in the centre of the town, railway workshops and a smaller junction at Karlsruhe. Photographs confirm the large fire in the factories alongside the railway.

Anti-aircraft fire was very heavy. Several hostile machines unsuccessfully attacked our formation.

All our machines reached their objectives and returned safely.

EARLIER CABLES.

NAVAL AEROPLANES ACTIVE.

LONDON, January 14th.

The Admiralty reports:—Yesterday afternoon our aircraft bombed the Engel dump. Bursts were observed among the sheds, a direct hit was obtained and a cloud of smoke was observed. All our machines returned.

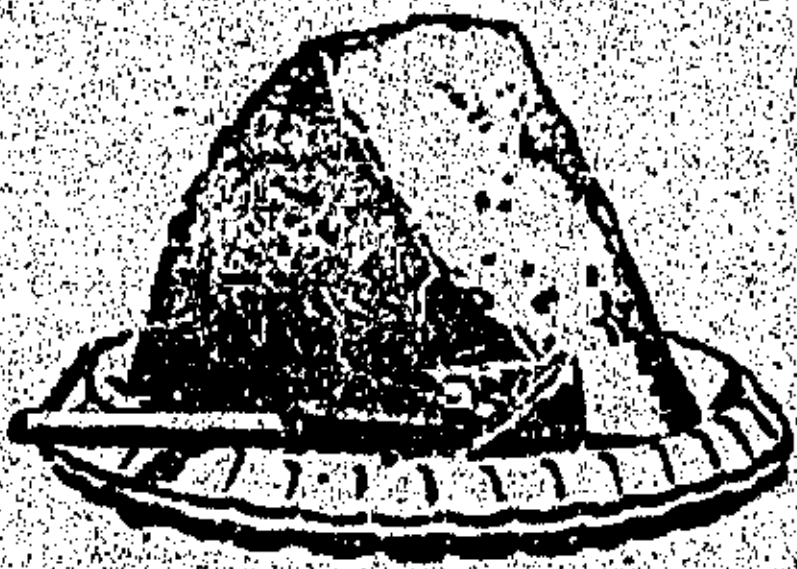
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INDUSTRIAL UNREST. AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS GOVERNMENT ACTION.

In the House of Lords, recently, the Marquis of Salisbury called attention to the reports of the Commissions of Inquiry into industrial unrest, and moved for papers. The principal impression left on the mind of any candid reader of the reports was one of distrust. The Commissioners reported that in almost all respects there was a feeling of distrust of employers, of the Government, of Parliament, of the trade union officials, of the whole social system. That attitude of distrust had a direct effect on the position the workers occupied with regard to burning questions of the moment. For example, there was the dread they felt that what were called pre-war conditions would not be restored according to the pledges of the Government. It was probably true that pre-war conditions could not be restored in their integrity, but the late Government had pledged themselves up to the hilt to restore these conditions. That was a very difficult and odious situation for the Government. There was nothing to be done except to appeal to the working classes, to throw themselves on their mercy, and to beg them to co-operate in finding a solution of the difficulty. The governing classes hitherto had been inclined to regard the working class as at times a sort of dangerous animal of enormous strength and great potential violence, which it was necessary to be very civil to but never to trust. (Hear, hear.)

That was a profound mistake, and it was fraught with the greatest danger to our country. How ought the situation to be dealt with. In the first place they must get rid altogether of the want of confidence with which the working classes had been treated in the past. (Hear, hear.) They must be prepared to tell them the truth—always the truth. If, for example, they found that honours were being improperly bestowed they must not scruple to give the right name to the transaction. (Hear, hear.) Then they must appeal to the sense of duty of the workers, and not always to their pockets. Also they ought in all respect to take the working classes into partnership, not merely nationally, but industrially, and lastly, they must show that they had the interests of the working classes at heart.

In the matter of education he would not suggest that should be put forward now, but an urgent question was that of housing. There was the permanent housing policy of this country which required to be taken in hand immediately on the conclusion of the war. Then there was what might be called the super-urgent question of housing in industrial districts, particularly those inhabited by munition workers. He did not belong to a party which had ever preached the gospel of wealth. That might be a new party but he was content with the old party, which had no respect for persons as between rich and poor, but wanted justice for all. The working classes were working out their own salvation, and he hoped that in the long run the good sense of the people would prevail. Whatever happened, his party intended to trust the people, and he believed they would return the trust. (Cheers.)

The Archbishop of York, while agreeing that the elements of unrest in the world of labour were formidable, thought it surprising, not that there had been so much discontent and unrest at the present time, but that there had been so little. (Hear, hear.) That to his mind was especially so considering the position in which the vast majority of workers were placed, and the many ways they had been severely tried. They had found that the high wages received were more or less absorbed by the high prices they had to pay for the needs of life—an increase which had been largely caused by profiteering. They had been harassed and harried by the confusion caused by recruiting and medical examination. Above all, they had been annoyed and irritated by the constant confusion between Government departments and the consequent delay in the settlement of many important and pressing questions. The working class had submitted to the suspension of regulations, which they regarded as the result of great struggles. When the war was over there would be, and rightly be, a demand for the workers of all classes that the pre-war conditions should not be reverted to, but a new departure made.

CAUSES OF UNREST

The causes of unrest were many, but he would only refer to two. The first obviously was the unequal distribution of the rewards of industry, as shown by the contrast between the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few and the position of the vast majority of intelligent working men—a position raised but little above the margin of poverty. The second main cause was the dehumanization of industry. The working man felt that there was no place for his free personality in the system under which he worked, but that, in spite of all improvements and trade activities, he was only part of a great machine and liable to be scrapped like the machinery he worked upon. The time had come when the employers must recognise that if they were to have harmony they must take their workmen more fully into their confidence.

The real centre of the situation was that the time had come for a new stage in the industrial development of the

country. The restoration of union regulations was a question which bristled with difficulties. The Government was under the most solemn pledge to restore them, and the only way out of the difficulty was that any modification of these former regulations should take place by consent of the trade unions themselves. He saw no way by which that consent could be obtained without giving rise to great suspicion and misunderstanding except through the action of just such point national industrial councils as the Whiteley report had recommended. The first steps must come from the masters. All the reports said that what mattered was not a new scheme but a new spirit, a spirit in which the master motive of industry would not be either the making of profits or the earning of wages, but service to the community. (Cheers.)

Lord St. David believed that the suspicion about excess profits was at the bottom of half the unrest of the present time. The statement that capitalists were gaining by this was not true. Investment companies had lost very heavily. Some traders had gained, and these were those that the working man saw at his door. The profits of farmers had been very great indeed. The Government ought to take the whole of the excess profits. Would it not be wise for the Government to say now that no man should gain by the war; that, in future, if a man made £100 a year additional by the war the Government would take it all; and, in cases where great fortunes had been piled up, that before a general tax is levied on other people the whole of the wealth made directly by profiteering would be taken for the benefit of the State?

Lord Beresford said most of the present unrest was produced by the idea that certain people had made immense fortunes out of the war, and that it was based on profiteering. After the war there would be 8,000,000 people to be absorbed who were now receiving wages from the State, and unless great care were taken there might be appalling trouble. There must be no question of the workhouse, or charity, or benevolent institutions for these people. It must be the business of the State to see to proper organisation for their absorption.

UNANIMITY OF THE NATION.

Viscount Milner said the question was one of the highest national interest. With insignificant exceptions there had been unprecedented unanimity among all classes of the community in the greatest trials and in the face of the greatest danger which had ever confronted this nation. Nothing but that unanimity had enabled them to achieve what had been achieved, and so long as the national unity was not broken nothing whatever could bring us down. Therefore, the consideration of any of these causes of unrest, which might affect the national unity to a serious extent, must always be foremost in all considerations. The House would expect from him some account of what had actually been done, and what the Government were trying to do to meet the special causes of industrial unrest to which attention had been called by the Commissioners in their reports. He thought those reports formed some of the most valuable documents received in recent times with regard to social conditions throughout the country. The Commission was appointed on June 12th, and the reports of eight sub-committees were presented on July 17th, together with a very useful summary, calling attention to the principal points. There were eight principal points brought out in that summary—points of very different degrees of importance. Some of them were far-reaching and fundamental, whilst others were rather local. Of those eight there were five of a more limited and, at the same time, of a much more definite character than the other three. He would take the minor points first. It was pointed out that the £1 a week maximum pay ought to be raised. That had been done by means of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The grievance of skilled workers who were receiving lower wages than some newcomers because they were not on piece-work had been met to a large extent by the recent action of the Ministry of Munitions. The order affected between 200,000 and 300,000 workers, and the cost to the State of that single change amounted to between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000. It was not the figure so much as the fact that the Government had taken this step of their own initiative—certainly not under pressure—and because they believed it to be just. A third recommendation was that pensions committees should have a larger discretion in their treatment of men discharged from the Army, and under the Royal Warrant of March 20th a much wider discretion was given. Up to the date of that warrant the number of rejections averaged 2,084 a month. Since then it was ninety-seven a month. (Hear, hear.) Recently there was a recommendation that agricultural wages should be raised to a minimum of 25s., and the Food Production Act had already given effect to that recommendation.

Then there were the bigger questions of food prices, housing, and industrial councils. Housing was the one on which they had the least good case. Housing after the war was one of the big branches of the vast subject of reconstruction. Considerable progress had been made, and there was no want of hard work or thought in connection with the subject. There was also the question of what could only be in the nature of a temporary palliative. The housing question had become more urgent during the war, and a big programme was required, but it must be an after-the-war programme. But as regarded the measures required immediately in order to meet the gross congestion which existed in certain localities where munition workers congregated, something must be done at once, and if it was not being done as fast as it ought to be somebody was to blame. (Hear, hear.)

FOOD PRICES.

Regarding food prices, while a great deal remained to be done and always would, yet great credit was due to the Food Controller and his predecessor for what had already been done. Obviously high prices in time of war, when there was scarcity, were inevitable, but they might reach a point which was really dangerous. It was because the Government had the conviction that the price of the greatest necessities of life had risen to an almost unendurable pitch that they took the drastic step of fixing the price of the 4lb. loaf at 9d., and taking upon themselves the pecuniary burden. That had stopped the rise in the price of bread, and the measures taken by the Food Controller regarding the wholesale prices of meat had also had the effect of lowering the price to the consumer. A table he had prepared showed that there had been a steady rise in the price of food since the war began. It was a considerable but not very startling rise in 1915, but in 1916 the rise was much more marked, and for the first six months of 1917 it became really terrifying, no doubt largely in consequence of the submarine campaign. Taking the bulk of the articles of general consumption together, there was a rise on July 1st, 1917, of 184 per cent. on pre-war prices. On Sept. 1st, 1917, they had risen 105.6 per cent. That was about the time the Government interfered. By Oct. 1st, the percentage of increase had gone down to 77.3. That was the first time since the war began that the prices of essential articles had, as a whole, shown a tendency to go back. While he did not wish to be too sanguine, he thought they might succeed in holding the prices or stopping excessive rises in articles of the most vital importance. He was convinced that so far as unrest was concerned, while the dearth of food was a very important factor, the belief that the dearth of food was due to some manipulation for profiteering was doing a great deal more harm. (Hear, hear.) It was for that reason that he attached the greatest importance to the ceaseless efforts of the Food Controller to stop unjust and excessive profits out of distribution. The Government were succeeding in getting distribution more even. The steps taken in regard to sugar registration would be useful, not only in securing better distribution of that article, but also as a guide for the distribution of other articles.

The Whiteley Report came to the Government as a confidential document some time in March. It was not fully considered by the War Cabinet till June. It then met with their unanimous approval, and they studied it with very high hopes as to the effect which might result from the adoption of the system recommended. A new department was constituted and set to work to get industrial councils established as quickly as possible in the various trades. It was the intention of the Ministry of Labour to approach the employers in certain trades which were ripe for this system, and to cover as large a portion of the field as quickly as possible.

He desired to associate himself with what had been said by the Archbishop of York regarding the real aspirations of the working classes, and his hope that on the lines they were now proceeding they might find a way to fulfil those aspirations as far as they could be fulfilled. Immense difficulties beset them, and they had a tremendous task before them, but he believed if that task was tackled in the right spirit on both sides, a great deal which at first sight appeared impossible might be accomplished. Many things had happened during the war of a most disquieting and alarming nature. There were plenty of mischief-makers, who used their disputes and their legitimate grievances to hamper their country in the conduct of the war, but the great majority of our fellow-countrymen were patriotic at heart. The industrial classes were as patriotic as any other class. When the point was reached at which it became apparent to them that the continuance of an industrial struggle would imperil the safety of the country, their prejudices and even their legitimate grievances were thrown aside. They had done it every time, and he believed they would do it to the end of the struggle. The only thing they then remembered was that they were Englishmen, and at a time of the greatest peril that England had ever known they were going to stand by their country.

The Earl of Selborne said that such action as had been taken had been taken by this Government, and he believed it would mark a turning point in the history of Government action in connection with social questions in this country. The Government had begun then the whole of their lordship's House in the policy on which they had started. (Hear, hear.) He believed the wisest measure the Government could adopt to promote industrial calm and increased output would be to arrange to give a month's holiday on full pay successively to 50 men who had been bearing the immense strain of three and a half years' work in the factories and munition shops. The most wonderful thing the war had proved was the solidarity of our race and nation. They might have their disputes, but it did not matter whether a man was a duke or a crossing-sweeper, if he was an Englishman he really looked at things from very much the same point of view. (Hear, hear.) The extreme homogeneity and unity of our nation, as compared with some other nations, was one of those things which ought to cause us to feel no fear for the future. What the trade unions were out for was to establish the status of the working man and the status of the union. But the unions could not have the status and at the same time remain irresponsible. The real solution, the safety, was to be found in the completion of the strength of the trade union organisation—that their status should be fully recognised and accepted, and that their responsibility should be assumed and acknowledged by them. In that House Capital was very fully represented. He thought over represented—made their position in the problems which were coming forward peculiarly difficult. But he spoke the literal truth when he said that there was no part of Parliament where the claims of Labour would be considered with more sympathy or more impartiality than in that House. The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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READINESS and suitability for long or short journeys, under any conditions, but that there had been so little. (Hear, hear.) That to his mind was especially so considering the position in which the vast majority of workers were placed, and the many ways they had been severely tried. They had found that the high wages received were more or less absorbed by the high prices they had to pay for the needs of life—an increase which had been largely caused by profiteering. They had been harassed and harried by the confusion caused by recruiting and medical examination. Above all, they had been annoyed and irritated by the constant confusion between Government departments and the consequent delay in the settlement of many important and pressing questions. The working class had submitted to the suspension of regulations, which they regarded as the result of great struggles. When the war was over there would be, and rightly be, a demand for the workers of all classes that the pre-war conditions should not be reverted to, but a new departure made.

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

THE STERN REALITIES OF WAR.

OBJECT LESSON OF ATTACK UPON ITALY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, November 12th.

One result of the Italian disaster is that a great change has come over opinion. The pleasant feeling of optimism as to the course of the war which had seized upon the nation from the Cabinet Minister to the costermonger has disappeared. No doubt that is so much to the good, since easy optimism in war time engenders a certain slackness of effort, and without ceaseless effort sustained at fullest pitch this war will never end in our favour.

For weeks before the German hordes broke the Italian lines, and poured through the Alps, highly placed members of the Government went about the country declaring that the war was as good as won. At that time we and our Allies had to do was to keep hammering away till America had time to pull her weight. After that, it was said, we should be in a position to dictate terms to Germany. No wonder people began to cultivate a comfortable feeling that all was well. But the Hun has dispelled the illusion. The attack upon Italy, transcending the almost hopes of the enemy, has brought us back suddenly to the stark realities of the struggle and shown us that there is no room for optimism.

We have still a long way to go before Germany is defeated in the field, and whatever else happens until that is accomplished it cannot be held that we have gained the end in view. Short of that, our mighty sacrifices will have been in vain. When that happens, however, depends upon numerous factors that make for victory, chief among them being British determination and pluck, British nerve and resources, and the exercise in supreme degree of that staying power which has carried the Anglo-Saxon race through many desperate crises in European history to ultimate triumph.

For the time being the principal theatre of the war has been transferred from Flanders and the North of France to the Italian plains. It is still true, no doubt, that the German onslaught upon Italy is the momentous fact which now governs the situation. To ignore this is to attempt to minimise the gravity of the case is to show a lack of courage.

The hopes that were centred upon Russia, with her population of 170,000,000 people, have been falsified by recent events; indeed, the military collapse of Russia was the direct and pre-disposing cause of the blow against Italy. If Russia had stood fast the Germans could not have detached sufficient forces for the great adventure southwards. Thus we arrive at a fairly clear outlook in a general review of the situation. Russia is out of the war as an active Ally, and considering how things are shaping there we shall be fortunate if nothing more serious happens in the immediate future as regards the attitude of those in power in that country towards the Allied cause. The Germans hold nearly all the territory they over-ran in the last three years—Belgium, a good portion of the north of France, the whole of Serbia and Montenegro, and all Russian Poland with Courland and Lithuania. Up to the present, therefore, in terms of geography, Germany has won, and incidentally it may be noted that in view of this it is easy to understand why Kaiserism is so anxious to open up peace negotiations.

A SERIOUS SITUATION.

But while it is only common-sense to recognise these unpleasant facts it would be unwise to lay too much stress upon them. The situation is serious but by no means desperate. It is still true that the British Empire, France and the United States dispose of man-power and material resources far greater than the Central Empires; and in the end these resources will suffice to bring us victory, provided we hold on grimly with the same courage and tenacity that in the end bore down and crushed Napoleon.

The Italian disaster finds this country as determined as ever to fight on for years if needs be; that is the feeling that I find everywhere I go, and it is reflected in the Press. Of course, there are some people crying out against the Government—against all the Allied Governments—for permitting the Italians to go down. It is held that what was threatened against Cadorna's forces must have been known, and that measures should have been taken accordingly. But, of course, the attack was unforeseen. What was not foreseen was that the Italians would crumple up before the Hun. In war as in the management of our great undertakings the best laid schemes "gang aft agley," and the only thing is to guard as far as is possible against mistakes and to meet emergencies as they arise.

UNITY OF CONTROL.

In the present emergency after the heart-breaking tragedy of Italy's invasion, an International War Council has been called into being in order to give effect to what is called "Unity of Control." The pity is that such a body was not set up before to day. There was at the beginning of Autumn a time when the sudden transference of a quarter of a million men to the Italian front would have given the Italians Trieste. But no troops were asked for by General Cadorna, and consequently none were sent, though they are going now fast enough—after the tragedy! If a supreme Council watching developments on all the fighting fronts had been in existence it is more than probable that by now the Austrians would have met with another Austria.

In his speech in Paris on the way back from the conference at Rome, whether he rushed at the first intimation of the bad news from Italy, Mr. Lloyd George clearly indicated that he wanted an Allied War Council to be formed long ago, but he was unable to get his way. To this lack of machinery for providing real unity in the direction of the war

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

WHAT VENICE IS TO THE ALLIES.

WATCHDOG THAT CLOSES AUSTRIAN PORTS.

[BY AN ANGLICAN.]

Venice is so associated in the public mind with moonlight, romance, and gondolas that her value as the second busiest port in Italy before the war, and since the war as a base for naval operations, is forgotten.

The German semi-official statement that "the famous art city has become a centre of war industries" is one of the usual lies that precede a fresh act of vandalism, for Venice has no war industries of importance excepting the shipbuilding that has been carried on behind the same walls from the time when the galleys that carried the first Crusaders to the Holy Land were built there.

Venice is not a munition centre. Her importance is due to the fact that with the shelter of her lagoons behind them the watchdogs of the Italian navy have kept the Adriatic swept of the enemy. No more traffic has come to the Austrian port of Trieste or to the Adriatic coast towns than has come to those other enemy-held ports of Antwerp and the Belgian coast since the war began.

Venice was the base for those useful excursions to the Gulf of Trieste when naval long-range guns collaborated with the Carso army—besides other sorties not yet to be mentioned. The Italians have kept the Austrian warships bottled up in Pola as effectually as British watchdogs have imprisoned the German navy in the Kiel Canal.

If Venice were in German hands the whole Adriatic coast of Italy would be in peril, for there is not such another naval base further north than Brindisi.

The idea of beautiful Venice being subjected to bombardment fills the soul of the city's most precious treasures of art and history have escaped the airman's bombs as by a miracle. Such miracles cannot be eternally repeated, but there is something dearer even than Venice to the Italians, and that is Italy. Let no one think lightly that Venice will be surrendered to the enemy to save her art and architecture from destruction.

If the Germans get near enough to the islands to bombard them, as they could do from the mainland, let it be remembered that naval guns can send shells over the city in return, and vessels moving about the lagoons behind the screen of the city would not be spotted by aircraft, for the Venetian aerial defence is the most effective in the world—excepting possibly that of Brest.

Enemy raiders time and again succeed in getting over the venture of the city, but that is because, coming from over the sea as they do, the chances for surprise attacks are extremely favourable. No warning of their approach can be given until they are at hand. With the element of surprise eliminated the city's aerial defence can be trusted to defeated the enemy's purposes.

WONDERS OF THE RED CROSS

Sir Arthur Stanley, M.P., speaking at the Royal Institute of Public Health, recently observed that on one occasion there was a sudden demand on the Red Cross for 4,000 hot-water bottles, and he was asked if they could be supplied the following week. "Being new to the job," added Sir Arthur, I undertook to do it at once. (Laughter.) I afterwards found, by extraordinary good fortune, that a gentleman had been to the office the day before and given us 2,000 hot-water bottles, and I was able to state that the 4,000 would be sent the next morning. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the splendid nursing work done by the Red Cross, he remarked: "One Sunday morning I went to the office, and found there an officer, who said there was an urgent need for a hospital at Paris. By five o'clock that afternoon the whole personnel of a hospital for 100 patients, with equipment and a number of cases of stores, steamed out of Victoria. (Hear, hear.) I should add that we had a hospital ready to go to Ostend, but the Germans had taken the place two days before. Never in their wildest moments did they think they would have to send motor-launches to Mesopotamia, but they had sent between forty and fifty there, and they had been of the greatest value. They also built a hospital ship, which had been the means of saving innumerable lives. (Hear, hear.) They had allowed themselves to be trammelled by too many regulations, or by too much 'red tape.' 'Wherever we have found any suffering that we could relieve,' he added, 'or distress where we thought we could be of help, we have been ready to supply the money which the British public has given us.' (Cheers.)

He attributed most of the chief misfortunes of our cause. The Allied conferences which have been held at intervals have been futile so far as concerns union in the control of strategy, the reason being, as the Prime Minister said, "there was a sensitiveness, a delicacy about tendering advice, let alone support, for any front than that for which the General was himself responsible."

GERMANY'S ADVANTAGE.

In this respect Germany has enjoyed a decided advantage over the Allies ever since the war started. The Germans have had unity of control, with power directed by one supreme authority, actuated by a single purpose, unhampered by conflicting national interests, free from any danger of wounding national susceptibilities. It is self-evident, and history bears witness to the fact, that an autocracy is better suited to conduct war than communities of free peoples; but all the same the spirit in which free men fight, as they are fighting in this war, will tell in the long run against the troops of Germany. The Italian disaster, although a terrible misfortune, may prove a blessing if it provides that effective military co-operation without which complete success can never be attained.

HENRY BAXTER.

CONSCIENCE AND THE VOTE.

STRIKING SPEECH BY LORD HUGH CECIL.

The proposal to disfranchise conscientious objectors drew from Lord Hugh Cecil a speech—the greatest that he has delivered—and a noble example of lofty eloquence. He began quietly by recalling that the enactment of the disability would be retrospective legislation; that it should have been inserted, as a penalty for conscientious exemption, in the Conscription Acts. "Objection," as a religious device, he denounced, but "moral and religious" objection was different. There was a higher law than State law. Men were responsible, here and hereafter, in time and in eternity, for obeying that law.

CHRISTIAN FIRST.

Turning to Mr. Bonar Law, Lord Hugh argued thus:—

"You say that the safety of the State is the supreme law—there is nothing beyond it. It is a doctrine not novel, indeed, it is now notorious. It is precisely what Bethmann-Hollweg said in defence of German aggression. Why blame the German Government? Nurse Cavell was technically guilty. It was only the Higher Law that condemned her punishment. Why echo the very language of her murderers? We are Christians first: we are Englishmen afterwards. And the Christian faith claims us absolutely—body and soul."

"What a wood of trouble you are plunging into! You gave votes to men of military age in Ireland because they are Irish. You deny them to Englishmen because they are religious. You give votes to Sinn Féin—convicted rebels—even when paid by German money. You give votes to soldiers court-martialled for any cause—save only conscience. You give votes to offenders by criminal vice, by odious lusts, to pick-pockets, robbers, and why? Because there is nothing conscientious in the actions of these thieves, miscreants, and scoundrels."

"You profoundly misjudge public sentiment. Quiet people who attend church and chapel will never support you in disfranchising every objector while every criminal has a vote. What about the Quaker Ambulance unit, where men have for years risked their lives? By our common religion, as laid down in St. Paul, if men think an action wicked, to them it is wicked. You recognise this with Mohammedans and Hindus—you do not violate their consciences. You only say they are mistaken. And to punish mistakes of opinion is to go back to the old familiar ground of religious persecution. (A great outburst of cheers.)"

To force another man's conscience is against my conscience. Belief in the State (as a religion) is barren and degrading. We fight in this war not for civilisation so much as to keep civilisation Christian. In a moving and elaborate peroration, Lord Hugh exposed the peril of uplifting the State until we worship it as idolaters of Moloch.

INEQUALITIES

Sir J. Compton Rickett quietly replied that the duty of rendering to Caesar's was not permissive, but compulsory—an injunction to be obeyed.

Sir E. Parrott, for the other view, argued that, if this amendment had been in force years ago, it would have disfranchised Bright and Cobden after the Crimean War and the Prime Minister himself after the Boer War. Besides, the disfranchised objectors could sit in Parliament!

Mr. Rowntree observed that the amendment would enact different laws for men under and over 41. It would not hit men of military age in a certified occupation or men who had been medically rejected. It would, however, disfranchise members of the Society of Friends, who had been doing most valuable and dangerous ambulance service abroad ever since the war started. People who had sacrificed remunerative positions and gone to work on the land for soldiers' pay would be disfranchised, whilst convicted profiteers would have the vote. That was an injustice that the public would not long tolerate. He admitted that some Quakers were fighting. That was because this was a war for freedom.

Mr. Chamberlain denied that to deprive a man of the vote made him a martyr. The vote was not a birthright, but a trust, granted under conditions. He thought, however, that the Friends' Ambulance men should retain their suffrage.

"The spiritual home of the amendment," said Mr. Leif Jones, "is Germany."

Adams, the Labour leader, who told against the amendment with Lord Hugh Cecil, warned the Government that they might arouse serious industrial trouble.

Sir George Cave, the Home Secretary, observed that personally the principle and conduct of the conscientious objector were to him odious, yet when they had by statute permitted a man to claim exemption from military service, they could not fairly impose upon him disabilities for having taken advantage of his statutory right. He could not vote for the amendment.

In the view of the course of the discussion it was clear that the amendment could not ultimately be carried as it stood. On the division the figures were:

For disfranchisement 209

Against 173

—A majority for it of only 36. And Sir George Cave at once agreed to Mr. Herbert Samuel's request that when the Bill is recommissioned on the Irish clauses the amendment be revised in important particulars. The magnitude of the minority—like the whole debate—came as a great surprise to the advocates of the amendment.

The understanding with the Government is that the provision in the Bill will be drafted so to exempt from disfranchisement members of the Society of Friends and any who are employed on work of national importance. —Daily News.

COUNT HERTLING.

THE ULTHAMONTANE CHANCELLOR.

[BY A CORRESPONDENT OF "THE TIMES."]

For a second time in the history of the German Empire the offices of Imperial Chancellor and Minister-President of Prussia are to be filled by a Bavarian, Prince Hohenlohe, when he succeeds Caprivi in 1894, was 75 years of age; Count Hertling, the seventh Chancellor, is in his 76th year.

Age apart, there is, however, as little in common between the circumstances and meaning of the two appointments as between the two men. Hohenlohe was the most distinguished representative of the liberal tendencies of South Germany. He had contributed largely to the acquisition of Bavaria in the Imperial idea. He regarded the creation of the Empire as a Liberal gain, and his services to the Empire in various capacities were based upon progressive opinions which were decidedly un-Prussian. There is a famous passage in the Hohenlohe memoirs which is very instructive now. In December, 1898, when Hohenlohe had had four years of the Chancellorship, he made the following entry in his diary after a Royal hour-shooting party at Springe:—

"When I sit thus among the Prussian Excellencies, I see clearly the contrast between North Germany and South Germany. South German Liberalism cannot stand up against the Junkers. They are too numerous, too powerful, and they have the Monarchy and the Army on their side. Moreover, the Centre goes with them."

In Count Hertling there is certainly no trace of "South German Liberalism." He is the very type, as he was for years the official leader, of the Centre Party which "does" with the Prussian Junkers. He does not even represent Bavarian Catholicism, and even while he led the Centre Party in the Reichstag he was almost the enemy of the Centre Party in Bavaria. By upbringing and habit Hertling was almost bound to belong to the West of Germany rather than to the South, and his connection with Rome was established through Rhenish Westphalia rather than through Bavaria.

THE SEVENTH CHANCELLOR'S CAREER.

Baron Georg von Hertling was born at Darmstadt in 1843. After finishing his studies he spent two years in Italy, and in 1867 settled down at Bonn as a Privat-docent. Thirteen years passed before he obtained a professorship. The reason, as he himself has said in one of his books, "The Principle of Catholicism and Science," was that he was written down as an ultramontane, and the academic progress of ultramontanism in those days was "steep and difficult."

But having obtained his professorship in 1880, he was transferred two years later to Munich as Professor of Philosophy. He had already for some years been a member of the Reichstag, and his fortunes advanced rapidly with those of the Centre Party, of which he ultimately became the leader, on the death of Dr. Lieber. While he was nominally a professor at Munich, Hertling was in reality the chief, although unofficial, representative of Germany at the Vatican, and for a generation he has conducted every important German negotiation with the Pope; his university lectures were as rare as his absences at Rome were frequent.

While Hertling's career in German politics could be described only in a history of the Centre Party during his time, there are two events which deserve to be remembered. When Prince Bulow at the end of 1906 joined issue with the Centre Party—nominally about Colonial policy—Hertling, as he explained some years afterwards, took the dissolution of the Reichstag as an attempt to establish "a Liberal regime" in the Empire and in Prussia. The result of the elections was the defeat, not of the Centre Party, but of the Socialists, and the Reichstag was a majority which came into existence was not a "Liberal" majority but the famous blue-black bloc—the combination of Conservatives and Centre Party. Two years later Prince Bulow received his punishment, when the Conservatives and the Centre Party defeated with reactionary arguments the proposed death duties, and Prince Bulow fell.

It is characteristic of Hertling that whereas in 1908 he had strongly supported Bulow and severely criticized the Kaiser in the matter of the Daily Telegraph interview he supported in the summer of 1909 the criticisms against Bulow for his behaviour towards the Emperor in the previous year—the issue which caused the Kaiser to take his own revenge on Bulow as soon as the political situation gave him his opportunity.

In February, 1912, Hertling was suddenly summoned by the late Prince Regent Luitpold to succeed Count Potevlle as Minister-President of Bavaria. Potevlle was really overthrown by the Bavarian Centre Party, and Hertling's appointment was found peculiarly convenient, owing on the one hand to his power and prestige as head of the whole Centre Party in Germany, and on the other hand to his aloofness, which has already been explained, from the Centre Party in Bavaria. The election was not, of course, the Bavarian Centre, and for the moment it actually pleased the Bavarian Liberals.

Hertling had considerable troubles over the Regency question after the death of Prince Luitpold, and exhibited little tact. But he kept his position, and the King of Bavaria has not been ungrateful for the fact that it is to Hertling that he owed the termination of the Regency and his establishment on the Bavarian Throne while the mad King Otto was still alive. Since the outbreak of war Baron von Hertling has been given the hereditary title of Count.

THE CRISIS, EXCLUSION OF THE REICHSTAG.

Appointed Imperial Chancellor on July 14th, Herr Michaelis after little more than three months has departed unwelcome and unused. There is little need to

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

DR. LYTTELTON AND THE PRESS.

A REMARKABLE SPEECH.

The Rev. the Hon. Edward Lyttelton, D.D., late Headmaster of Eton, made an attack upon the Press recently, in the course of a lecture delivered at York under the auspices of the University Extension Society. After denouncing the present Parliamentary system as a sham apparent to any school-boy, he said that the real power was vested in the Press. He then asked if there were any reporters present, and was informed by several members of the audience that there was a Press representative in the hall. Dr. Lyttelton said he "must ask the reporter to hold his hand" with regard to what he was about to say.

Dr. Lyttelton then went on to say that newspapers were primarily a commercial product, and the editors or proprietors were mainly concerned with those things which made for increased circulation. Accordingly they preferred "sensations" to facts, because fiction was more exciting to the public; the public liked excitement or "sensations," and they got it. He had it on the authority of a local reporter, who was on the staff of a large newspaper, that he once received instructions from the head office in London to the effect that he was to "send a story" of a certain event, whether the facts were accessible or not, or even without regard to the facts! The editor of a certain journal also told him on one occasion that she dare not correct a statement which she knew to be untrue, or she would lose her position. He gave these incidents as being typical of the policy pursued by the Press of the country in deliberately ignoring the truth in preference for "sensationalism," or anything which was calculated to increase the commercial value of newspapers.

review what Herr Dernburg would call his "brutal failure." As a matter of fact the charges against this unfortunate official are somewhat obscure, and can only be described as a general accusation of incompetence—incompetence to obtain peace, and incompetence to satisfy anybody, much less any political majority, in Germany. All parties seem to have agreed upon the formula of the *Forwards* that "the remaining of this man in his office constitutes a paralysis of all political functions of the Empire abroad, and at home." Michaelis's fall is certainly due neither to his general experiences with the Reichstag nor to the particular conflict with the Reichstag and Admiral von Capella about the "naval museum." In view of the attempts which will be made to create some new "victory of Parliamentarism," it may be well to quote so unexceptionable an authority as the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. The organ of South German Liberalism in an outspoken leading article on October 28th said:—

"It is necessary to observe that this Chancellor crisis has nothing whatever to do with the Reichstag, with Parliamentarism, with authority, or with anything of the sort. The Parliamentary situation is simply this: that the Reichstag rejected by a large majority a proposed vote of lack of confidence against the Chancellor, and then hurried away for holidays until December 5th. All that the leaders of the four parties have since discussed and resolved, and all such important steps as they have taken separately, or jointly all this, has assuredly been dictated by a sense of a great political trouble in the Reichstag, and, of course, is of the highest political importance for the coming deliberations of the Reichstag, and for its future relationship to the Government and the Chancellor. But the Reichstag is not assembled. The Reichstag is silent, because it has silenced itself. What now happens or does not happen, can neither cheer the Reichstag nor depress it, for there is no decision of the Reichstag."

It is indeed beyond dispute that the Reichstag has been even more impotent on this than in earlier "crises." As Count Hertling has become Chancellor, he has presumably found some formula of agreement with some Reichstag majority, and nobody knows better than he how the Reichstag game is played. But the crisis has not been in any sense a Parliamentary crisis, and as regards German domestic politics one can only note Count Hertling's remarkably reactionary record. It is amusing enough that, in apparent ignorance of his own impending fate, he has just been committing himself afresh in the Bavarian Diet. Only a week ago he was stoutly resisting all demands for serious reforms in Bavaria, and on October 26th he took occasion to declare emphatically against Ministerial responsibility, incompatible with the federal character of the Empire.

What, then, is the meaning of the Hertling Chancellorship? It is possible, not because of, but in spite of, all the sham talk about democratization and Parliamentarism in Germany. If Hertling is acceptable at all, he will be acceptable to the German people only because he is recommended as the most helpful promoter of the peace for which Germany is working and intriguing. That is doubtless the meaning of the open appearance of Herr von Kuhlmann at the eleventh hour—on behalf of his candidature. New efforts are to be made to obtain peace through Rome. The natural line of communications is through Munich and Vienna, and Hertling is the most obvious director of operations.

Indeed, all that is strange about the latest German move is its very obviousness as an announcement made with appropriate cynicism on the four hundredth anniversary of the appearance of Luther—that Germany, having failed through Stockholm, and having fallen upon Italy, is about to employ every influence that she can exert upon Roman Catholic opinion in all parts of the world. Not that the German Foreign Office is likely to consider that it has only one string to its bow. The better advertised, her immediate campaign is the more likely Germany is to develop her peace offensive in other directions as well.

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